

REMARKS

The Applicant respectfully requests further examination and reconsideration in view of the above amendments. Claims 1-21 were pending in this application. Claims 1-7, 9-18, and 20-21 have been rejected. Claims 8 and 19 were objected to. Claims 1, 7, 11, and 18 have been amended. Claims 8 and 19 have been canceled. Claims 22-39 have been previously canceled. Claims 40 and 41 have been added. Accordingly, claims 1-7, 9-18, 20-21, and 40-41 are now pending.

Objection to claims 8 and 19:

Within the Office Action, claims 8 and 19 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Within the Office Action it is stated that claims 8 and 19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

In response to the Office Action, claim 1 has been rewritten to include the limitations of its dependent claims 7 and 8. Accordingly, claim 1 is now allowable. Because claims 2-6, 9, and 10 depend from claim 1, they too are allowable as depending from an allowable base claim.

Furthermore, claim 11 has been rewritten to include the limitations of its dependent claims 18 and 19. Accordingly, claim 11 is now allowable. Because claims 12-17, 20 and 21 depend from claim 11, they too are allowable as depending from an allowable base claim.

PATENT
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CONCLUSION

For the reasons given above, the Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-7, 9-18, 20-21, and 40-41 are distinguishable over the cited references and are in condition for allowance. Allowance at an early date would be appreciated. If the Examiner has any questions or comments, he is invited to call the undersigned at (408) 530-9700 so that any outstanding issues can be expeditiously resolved.

Respectfully submitted,
HAVERSTOCK & OWENS LLP

Dated: 7-9-03

By: 
Thomas B. Haverstock
Reg. No.: 32,571

Attorneys for Applicant

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR § 1.8(a))
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